(b) if so, the details of the quantity of red wheat provided to States, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has been withdrawn due to consumers' disliking; and

(d) if so, the names of States which have returned this wheat and total quantity of red wheat that has been purchased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) While making allocation of wheat under TPDS, no distinction is made between the imported and indigenous wheat. Details of quantities of imported wheat, which also includes red wheat, received and distributed so far, State-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

Some of the State Governments have informed that the imported red wheat is not being preferred by the beneficiaries under the TPDS. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, have requested for allocating only indigenous or which wheat. However, no allocated red wheat has been withdrawn from State/UT Governments.

Statement

Details of State-wise allocation of imported wheat during 2006-07 and 2007-08 by Food Corporation of India.

(*Tentative fig. In MT-Approx.*)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Quantity Received	Quantity issued
1.	Maharashtra	1433278	1397626
2.	Gujarat	970504	824573
3.	Rajasthan	391346	391346
4.	Madhya Pradesh	1302136	1250230
5.	Chhattisgarh	39058	38329
6.	Jharkhand	50229	50229
7.	Bihar	62671	62671
8.	West Bengal	509216	509216
9.	NEF Zone	39245	39245
10.	Orissa	503364	50364
11.	Andhra Pradesh	93106	83251
12.	Karnataka	300159	300159
13.	Tamil Nadu	130383	130383
14.	Kerala	295873	294631
	TOTAL:	56,67,568	54,22,253

Rise in prices of essential commodities

564. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been steep rise in prices of essential foodgrains cereals and vegetables during this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) how far this affected the lower middle class and poor people in the country;

(d) the steps taken by Government to make essential commodities available at affordable prices for consumers;

(e) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the relationship bewteen forward trading and price rise; and

(f) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) During this year, retail prices of foodgrains have generally been steady. Among cereals mainly rice, showed a marginal increase where as wheat is showing a steady trend in Delhi. Retail prices of some pulses manily tur dal, has shown an upward trend. Retail prices of gram dal have reduced. Retail prices of vegetables have been stablished, Retail prices of potato after reaching a peak of Rs. 16 per kg in Delhi, reduced to 13 per kg and onion from Rs. 27 per kg has been reduced to Rs. 15 per kg. The main reason for inflation in some food articles is inadequate domestic supplies in relation to demand and hardening of international prices of food grains which is on account of diversion of food grains to bio-fuel and animal feed and production losses due to inclement weather conditions.

(c) Government has taken steps to insulates the poorer sections of society from price rise by distributing these commodities through PDS. It has protected vulnerable sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice have not been revised since 1.07.2002 for APL and BPL, while the Central Issue Prices for AAY has not been revised since the launch of the scheme in December, 2000.

(d) Government is aware of the icnrease in prices of essential commodities such as wheat, pulses and edible oil and has responded by taking a series of measures such as augmenting domestic supplies of wheat and pulses through imports at reduced rates of duty, ban on exports of pulses, wheat and reduction in custom duty of edible oils.

(e) and (f) The Government has not conducted any study so far to ascertain the relationship between forward trading and price rise. However, in the context of debate whether and to wheat extent futures trading has contributed to price rise in agricultural commodities in recent times, the Government has set up an Expert Committee on 2/3/2007 under the Chairmanship of Abhijit Sen, Member Planning Commission to study, *inter alia,* the extent of impact, if any, of future trading on wholesale and retail prices of agricultural commodities. The Expert Committee however have not submitted their Report so far.

Irregularity in import of wheat

†565. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wheat imported by Government during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.